

## **NEWS**

For Immediate Release: April 8, 2008 For more information, contact the I-17 project hotline: 480.890.3055

## I-17 Ramps at Deer Valley Road to Close for Improvements

PHOENIX — A pair of Interstate 17 ramps at Deer Valley Road will close later this month as part of major widening work to improve the flow of traffic along the busy freeway. The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) says the changes include the permanent closure of the northbound I-17 exit ramp at Deer Valley Road.

The closure of the northbound I-17 exit ramp, scheduled to occur on April 26, will not eliminate access to Deer Valley Road. New signs and message boards will direct drivers to exit northbound I-17 at Rose Garden Lane and use the freeway's frontage road to reach Deer Valley Road.

The northbound I-17 exit ramp closure is necessary to reduce congestion and the weaving of Loop 101 traffic trying to enter I-17 while I-17 drivers are trying to exit at Deer Valley Road.

When the I-17 exit ramp closure takes place, Loop 101 drivers will be able to access Deer Valley Road by exiting westbound Loop 101 at 19<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> avenues or eastbound Loop 101 at 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

The southbound I-17 loop entrance ramp at Deer Valley Road will temporarily be closed to traffic beginning April 19. The ramp, which accommodates traffic going westbound on Deer Valley Road, will remain closed for approximately one year while the interchange is reconstructed. Drivers on westbound Deer Valley Road will be able to access southbound I-17 by using the southbound frontage road and entrance ramp south of Rose Garden Lane.

Drivers traveling on Deer Valley Road can also use 19<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> or 35<sup>th</sup> avenues and travel south to access the Loop 101 during the I-17 loop ramp closure.

The Deer Valley Road interchange reconstruction is one of several I-17 improvement projects north of the Loop 101 currently underway as part of the Valleywide Regional Transportation Plan.

I-17 projects include doubling the number of lanes from the Loop 101 to the Carefree Highway by the end of 2009, adding new interchanges in several locations to improve access, and reconstructing the existing interchange at the Carefree Highway (State Route 74) to improve traffic flow. Another project to widen I-17 by one lane from the Carefree Highway to Anthem Way will begin in 2009 and be complete in 2010. In addition, the Loop 101 will provide access to Deer Valley Road once the overall project is complete in 2009.

Drivers can visit ADOT's Interstate 17 Web page at www.azdot.gov/ValleyFreeways for the times and locations of construction restrictions on I-17, and to sign up for ADOT's I-17 weekly e-mail traffic alert.

For general information about I-17 improvements, contact the project hotline at (480) 890-3055 or projectupdate@lewin-associates.com. For a complete listing of freeway and highway restrictions across Arizona, visit ADOT's Travel Information Site at www.az511.gov or dial 5-1-1.